

The Laurens Advertiser.

VOLUME XXXI.

LAURENS, SOUTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1915.

NUMBER 22

LAURENS COUNTY WON SECOND PRIZE

For Improvement in Schools
During the Year.

EDEN AND POPULAR
ALSO WON PRIZES

At the Recent Meeting of the State School Improvement Association this County was Presented Fifty Dollars as Second Prize in the Improvement Contest.

Laurens County has been awarded Second Prize by the State School Improvement Association for the greatest improvement along stated lines among the South Carolina counties. Dillon county won first place but was so pushed by Laurens, that a decision was arrived at only after a lengthy discussion. Dillon was presented \$100 and Laurens \$50. In addition to this county prize two schools in Laurens won individual prizes for the greatest improvement along all lines. These were second prizes and to each of these two schools,—Eden and Mt. Olive,—twenty-five dollars were given.

Rural schools to the number of 164, in 35 counties, have reported to the South Carolina School Improvement association achievements during the year in the direction of betterment, many of these accounts being accompanied by photographs contrasting conditions "before" and "after." The change from a one-teacher school housed in a rough, box car like building, to the graded school in a modern, well equipped building seems a marvelous record for one year, yet more than 100 schools showed such progress.

Prizes for the year were allotted by the executive committee of the association. Members present were: Miss Elizabeth Dickson, acting president, Columbia; Miss Mary Eva Hite, Batesburg; Miss Sadie Goggans, Columbia; Miss Wil Lou Gray, Laurens; Miss Mamie McLees, Dillon; Miss Madeline Spigener, St. Matthews; Miss Ethel Dreher, Lexington; Miss Isadora Williams, Liberty; Mrs. Hugo S. Strickland, Walterboro.

First Prizes \$50 Each.

First prizes of \$50 each were awarded to the following schools, each reporting a satisfactory status in buildings, equipment, taxation, compulsory education, enrollment and attendance, and each having besides an active school improvement association:

Betha, Alken; Buffalo, Cherokee; Ruby, Chesterfield; Tabor, Colleton; Dothan, Dillon; Bell, Dorchester; Trinity, Florence; Travelers Rest, Greenville; Utopia, Greenwood; Three C's, Kershaw; Oakhurst, Lancaster; Oak Grove, Lexington; Eulonia, Marion; St. Phillips, Newberry; East Elizabeth, Orangeburg; Peters Creek, Pickens; Piedmont, Richland; Oswego, Sumter; Gault, Union, Cades, Williamsburg.

A second series of prizes was offered to the counties for improvement along stated lines. In this contest the points were so very close in some cases that the committee found it hard to reach a decision. Dillon, Darlington, Laurens and Kershaw had made splendid records. Each county employs a supervising teacher, who devotes her time to securing class room efficiency in the rural schools. Each county annually holds a field day; each county showed the celebration of clean-up day in each school, thus proving that the health of the pupils is considered. Compulsory school attendance has been secured by many districts in each county, and in each one special effort is going on to secure the adoption of a compulsory law. It is significant that in each county making a high record of improvement nearly every district has an active school improvement association. Night schools have been established to meet the problem of illiteracy. Agricultural instruction in rural schools, domestic science departments—these things show the efforts of the schools to educate all the children of all the people.

Prizes to Counties.

Dillon was awarded a cash prize of \$100, Laurens a cash prize of \$50, Darlington and Kershaw \$25 each.

Among the most interesting applications were those for the local associations. These tell of the community interest in the school, of local taxation and compulsory education ac-

EASTERN STARS ELECT.

Annual Election of Officers Took Place Tuesday Night.

The annual election of officers of the Order of Eastern Star took place Tuesday night. The following were elected:

Miss Lucia Barksdale, W. M.
M. J. Simpson, W. P.
Mrs. J. C. Shell, Asso. M.
Miss Annie Childress, Sec'y.
Miss Ethel Langston, Treas.
Miss Hattie Kate Easterby, Cond.
Miss Roberta Dorroh, Asso. Cond.
Mrs. Brooks Swygert, Organist.
Miss Maggie Peterson, Marshall.
R. M. Eichelberger, Sentinel.
Miss Beta Meredith, Warder.
Mrs. J. N. Richardson, Adah.
Mrs. H. D. Gray, Ruth.
Miss Lulle Eichelberger, Esther.
Mrs. S. G. McDaniel, Martha.
Miss Clara Switzer, Electa.
J. H. Sullivan, Chaplin.

Fall Pears.

Mr. W. L. Reid and family will be about the only persons in this section to eat fall pears this year. That is, they will eat them if the pears get ripe. Several days ago he showed the Garden Editor of The Advertiser a number of young pears that he had picked from his trees the day before. While not very large, they are well formed, nice and hard. They may get ripe—maybe. Anyway, they are a curiosity at this season of the year.

DEATH OF MRS. OWEN.

A Native of This County Passes Away in Greenwood.

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Owen, wife of Coroner Dock Owen, died at her home in the Grendel Mill village, Greenwood, Sunday morning at 3:45 after a long illness. The funeral services were conducted at the Poplar Spring church near Ware Shoals at 12 o'clock by Rev. George W. Bussey.

Mrs. Owen was 76 years of age and before her marriage was a Miss Elledge. Besides her husband she is survived by several children and grandchildren to mourn her loss.—Greenwood Daily Journal.

"Old Maid's Convention."

There will be a play, "Old Maid's Convention," given at Barksdale school by local talent, Thursday evening, Dec. 24th, at 7:30. Admission will be 10 and 15 cents. Oysters will be served by the ladies of the Rural School Improvement association.

At Rabun Creek Church.

The Y. W. A. of Rabun Creek Baptist church will give an entertainment at the church on Dec. 25th, beginning at 7:30. The public is invited.

Miss Gray A Winner.

In the "Game of Knowledge" contest recently conducted by The Columbia State, Miss Wil Lou Gray was one of the winning contestants. A series of pictures were printed in The State portraying some event in Southern History and the contestants were asked to guess the event which each represented.

cured by the women of the association. Money needed for better equipment is raised in many ways. In one district an acre of potatoes was planted by the association, in another a bale of cotton secured, every form of entertainment was given. The four schools which showed such marked effect in school development were awarded cash prizes of \$25 each. These were: Kelleytown, Darlington; Minturn, Dillon; Wellford, Spartanburg; Monetta, Aiken.

Second Prizes Given.

Second prizes of \$25 each were awarded to the following schools:

Pineland, Aiken; Jackson, Aiken; Davis Branch, Barnwell; Patrick, Chesterfield; Strickland, Colleton; Ashton, Colleton; Pond Hollow, Darlington; Bermuda, Dillon; Mars Bluff, Florence; Fairview, Greenwood; Andrews Chapel, Greenwood; Red Hill, Hampton; Nixville, Hampton; Oak Grove, Horry; Good Hope, Horry; Tarboro, Jasper; Antioch, Kershaw; Piedmont, Kershaw; Oakland, Kershaw; Halfway, Lexington; Mount Olive, Laurens; Eden, Laurens; Blenheim, Marlboro; Bounty Land, Oconee; Fairfield, Oconee; New Providence, Orangeburg; Cherry Hill, Saluda; Fairview, Saluda; Salem Sumter; Providence, Sumter; Boiling Springs, Spartanburg; North Paeolet, Spartanburg; Oakland, Union; Tinkers Creek, Union; Cedar Hill, Union; Mulberry, Williamsburg; Blairsville, York; Brandon, York.

CHRISTMAS SEALS ON THURSDAY PACKAGES

Here is a Chance for Everyone in Laurens to Help the Red Cross Commission. Without Investing any Money. Several Merchants of the City will Place One Christmas Seal on Each Package Going out of their Store on Thursday of this Week.

The agents for the Red Cross Christmas Seals in Laurens have inaugurated a novel scheme for selling the seals this year. Tomorrow afternoon, Thursday, beginning at one o'clock in the afternoon and lasting until six o'clock, the merchants listed below have offered to place on each package coming from their store one of the little seals, or on as many of the packages as they can conveniently stamp. The expense of these seals will be borne by the store sending out the package. There will be someone placed at the front door of each place of business or at some convenient place within the store whose duty it will be to see that each package is labelled with one of the little Red Cross Seals—the little colored stamp that carries with it a message the cause of charity but help the merchant and that serves to show the business man's interest in the sweetest work of charity ever undertaken in South Carolina. The following Laurens merchants have offered their assistance in this way:

Switzer Company
Davis-Roper Company
Powe Drug Company
Peoples Drug Company
Fleming Brothers
H. Terry
Minter Company.

To those who are interested in the great cause of the Red Cross Commission the agents for the seals in Laurens make this little request: Do as much shopping as you can Thursday afternoon and thereby help not only the cause of charity but help the merchant by doing your shopping before the busy Christmas Eve day.

In addition to the merchants listed above several of the Laurens firms have helped by purchasing a number of the stamps to be used as they see fit. They are as follows: S. M. & E. H. Wilkes & Co., W. G. Wilson Co., W. Solomon, Swygert, Nickels & Co., Dixie Flour and Grain Company, L. B. Blackwell and The Laurens Advertiser. Many of the lawyers and doctors have bought from 25 to 100 each of the stamps for their own use.

The stamps are on sale at all times at any one of the following places: Postoffice, Powe Drug Co., Peoples Drug Store, Laurens Drug Co., and The Advertiser office.

When you are making your preparations for a bright and merry Christmas, remember the poor and the needy who will celebrate the Savior's birth, without the little gifts of love that you will have and without even the bare necessities of life. You can help them by helping the Red Cross Christmas Seal commission.

PYTHIAN LODGE ELECTS.

Officers Elected for Ensuing Year by Laurens Lodge No. 43.

Laurens Lodge No. 43, Knights of Pythias have elected the following officers for the ensuing year:

Brooks Swygert, C. C.
W. A. Burgess, V. C.
M. L. Smith, P.
E. H. O'Shields, M. o W.
J. F. Tolbert, K. of R. & S. and M. F.
R. B. Terry, M. of E.
T. D. Downey, M. at A.
C. L. Waldrop, I. G.
M. J. Simpson, O. G.

More Choppers at Gray Court.

The Woodmen of the World at Gray Court were making busy preparations yesterday for the initiation of a big class of thirty new choppers into the mysteries of the order last night. Past Junior Consul C. A. Power went up yesterday afternoon to be present at the exercises and a "big old time" was expected. The Woodman camp at Gray Court is in a flourishing state and is being continually augmented by additions to its membership.

Invited to Hear "Quiet Talks"

Rev. E. P. Davis, D. D., pastor of the Second Presbyterian church of Greenville, has sent an invitation through The Advertiser to Laurens people to attend one or more of a series of "Quiet Talks" to be given by Mr. S. D. Gordon, under the auspices of the churches of Greenville from January 9th to the 13th. The talks will be made in the St. Paul's Methodist church in the mornings and in the First Presbyterian church in the evenings.

Attention.

Members of Chestnut Ridge church are asked to read this:

You are urged to be at the Sunday school and the preaching service of your church next Sunday morning, Dec. 26. Special services for the last Sunday of 1915. Come!

Fires in Fountain Inn.

Mr. T. W. Winn, of Fountain Inn, was in the city Monday and told of two fires that occurred in that town Sunday night. The homes of Mrs. Van Garrett and Till Howard, adjoining each other just on the line between Laurens and Greenville counties, were both almost totally destroyed. The loss is estimated at between five and six thousand dollars and the insurance carried was only about a thousand.

Buys Oakland Eight.

The Laurens Motor Car Company has just delivered an Oakland eight cylinder car to Mrs. W. W. Jones. This is one of the prettiest cars that has ever been in the city and is attracting a great deal of attention.

WILLIAM P. COKER

DIED LAST WEEK.

A Well Known and Highly Honored Citizen of Laurens County Has Passed Away.

W. P. Coker, one of Laurens county's most honored and respected citizens, passed away at his home in Youngs township on Sunday, Dec. 12th, and was buried at the Bethany church on the following Monday. Mr. Coker had been in very ill health for many weeks and therefore his death, though bringing many sorrows, was not unexpected. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. J. P. Coleman and Rev. L. B. Ezell. Mr. Coker was a devoted member of the Baptist church, being a charter member of the Bethany church.

As a soldier in the great Southern cause, Mr. Coker played a noble part and fought valiantly throughout the war as a member of Company E, 6th South Carolina Cavalry. Since the war he has taken an active interest in all things pertaining to the veterans and at the time of his death was chairman of the Laurens County Board of Pensioners.

Mr. Coker was born at Barksdale, where he spent the early part of his life. Later he moved into Youngs township, where the most of his life was spent. He is survived by his wife who was Miss Hughes and several sons and daughters.

His funeral was attended by a great host of his relatives and friends whose floral gifts testified to the admirable character of the Veteran who had answered the last roll call.

BE CAREFUL ABOUT FIRES.

Insurance Commissioner Writes Chief of the Fire Department About Christmas Fires.

Fire Chief J. T. Crews has received a letter from Insurance Commissioner McMaster asking him to issue warning against carelessness with fireworks, etc., during the usual season. "The rush, waste accumulations and fire-Christmas season is here with its works. Urge upon your citizens to do all they can to prevent fires," he says in his letter. Chief Crews has asked that this warning be heeded, especially as it applies to fireworks as this is the source of the greatest danger.

MRS. ELIZABETH WOLFF DEAD.

Widow of the Late Dr. J. S. Wolff and Highly Esteemed Woman.

Last Wednesday morning, Mrs. Elizabeth Wolff passed away at her home in this city. Mrs. Wolff was in her seventy-ninth year and for some time has been in very feeble health. Only a very short time ago her husband, Dr. John S. Wolff preceded her to the grave. She is survived by one sister, Mrs. John Moore, six sons, and five daughters. In addition to these there are forty-eight grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren and many other relatives who survive to mourn the great loss in the passing of this fine woman.

The funeral services were conducted by Rev. H. L. Baggott and Rev. J. R. T. Major, the burial taking place Thursday morning in the Chestnut Ridge cemetery. A large gathering was present for the last rites and the many beautiful flowers that were laid upon her grave attested the love and esteem in which she was held by hundreds throughout the county.

PLAY AT GRAY COURT.

The "Elopement of Ellen" Will be Presented There Tonight.

The "Elopement of Ellen" an unusually entertaining and attractive play will be presented at the Gray Court-Owings schoolhouse tonight by the pupils and teachers of the school. In addition to the play there will be music and short entertainments by the primary grades. The play will begin at 7:30. The following is the cast of characters:

Richard Ford, newly wed, Carey Bolt Molly, Richard's wife, Allene Willis Dorothy March, Molly's guest.

Laurie Gray Max Ten Eyck, R. T. Wilson June Haverhill, Molly's new maid, Mary Hart Griffin Rector Hume, Sam Bolt

At Palmetto School.

There will be a box supper at Palmetto schoolhouse, Tuesday afternoon Dec. 28th. The proceeds to go for the improvement of the school building. Everybody is invited.

WM. H. MOOREHEAD WON AUTOMOBILE

Polled Over Two Million
Votes Monday

EXCITING END
TO THE CONTEST

The Advertiser's Ford Automobile Contest Closed Monday Night Amid a Flood of Ballots. Miss Martha Franks, Mrs. B. R. Todd and Miss Flora Bennett Other Winners.

CONTEST WINNERS.

Wm. H. Moorehead, 2,006,600 *
Automobile.
Miss Martha Franks, 1,039,125 *
Grafanola.
Mrs. B. R. Todd, 905,925 *
Watch.
Miss Flora Bennett, 264,000, *
\$25 Gold Piece.

The Advertiser's automobile contest closed Monday night and after the counting of the ballots it was found that William Hopkins Moorehead, of Goldville, had the highest number of ballots and was awarded the first prize, a Ford automobile. Immediately after the award was made, Wm. A. Moorehead, father of the successful contestant, placed himself behind the steering gear of the neat little car and whisked away home.

The winner of the first prize in the second district was Miss Martha Franks, who was awarded the \$100 Grafanola and \$25 worth of records, purchased from John A. Williams, "The Piano Man" of Greenville. Mrs. B. R. Todd was the winner of the beautiful Hamilton 14 carat gold watch, bought of William Solomon, jeweler, of this city. Miss Flora Bennett was the winner of the second prize in the first district, the \$25 in gold.

Messrs W. R. McCuen and D. M. Norwood acted as judges of the contest, assisted by Mr. J. W. McKee. The ballots had been systematically arranged, so that they were able to complete the counting in about an hour's time. The decision was made known about ten o'clock, quite a number of interested persons being in the office to watch the tabulation.

The contest was a successful one in more ways than one. Not only did The Advertiser increase its subscription list very materially and collect numerous old accounts, but the best of feeling prevailed throughout the entire period. At its close, when the result of the work was shown, there was no complaining or regrets, as the votes showed that the winners had secured their reward by work. The winners of the prizes expressed their thanks and gratitude to those who assisted them and sympathized with those who had lost. As for The Advertiser, it deeply appreciates the work done by the contestants in the race. To all of this, The Advertiser extends its thanks.

PALMETTO LODGE ELECTS.

Thos. I. Swygert Heads Palmetto Lodge During Next Year.

The following officers were elected to serve Palmetto Lodge, A. F. M., at the last regular meeting:

Thos. I. Swygert, W. M.
R. R. Nickles, S. W.
Roy Little, J. W.
O. B. Simmons, Treas.
E. O. Anderson, Sec'y.
A. W. Fisher, S. D.
J. S. McCravy, J. D.
S. L. Barksdale, Steward.
M. J. Simpson, Steward.
R. M. Eichelberger, Tyler.

Princeton News.

Princeton, Dec. 21.—Mr. and Mrs. Robert Taylor celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary last Saturday, December 11. Several of their friends attended. They were the recipients of many silver presents.

Mr. Lawrence Taylor of Furman University, attended the silver wedding of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Taylor Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Arnold spent Friday in Honea Path.
Messrs J. T. Machen and W. I. Freeman attended the Baptist State convention at Greenville Saturday, Sunday and Monday.